

REPLY MADE TO DR. EVANS

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE WEST CHURCH.

Trustees Say That Its Defect Has Been Increasing, and That It Was Decided That a New Pastor Was Needed—All Trustees but One and All Elders but Two Sign.

The session of the West Presbyterian Church has decided to refer Dr. Anthony H. Evans' resignation as pastor to a congregational meeting without recommendation. The meeting will be on April 1.

Yesterday the trustees made public statement reviewing church conditions from the trustees' standpoint. All of them who are in town signed it and all the elders indorse it except two. Elder E. G. Stedley refused to sign it, and it was said yesterday by a member of the session that Elder A. N. Brown was considered too aged a man to be bothered with a church controversy. The only trustee whose name does not appear on the document is H. M. Flieger, who is out of town for the winter. The statement was sent through the trustees yesterday to the members of the church. It is understood to have been prepared under the direction of Robert Jaffray, Jr. Here it is:

To the congregation of the West Presbyterian Church:

In view of certain statements recently made to this congregation it appears to be desirable to present the following facts relative to the affairs of the church during the past year, so that the congregation may understand the course of action which the officers have pursued.

Dr. Evans became pastor of the church in July, 1898. At the beginning of the then current fiscal year, viz., on May 1, the floating debt was \$2,500. In November the report of the gallery news, was reduced one-third, as it was believed that the charges were too high and that a reduction of the same would benefit the church. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, viz., May 1, 1899, the floating debt was \$1,500. During the year the statement amounted to about \$1,200; but on the other hand, some were given up which represented a rental value of about \$1,000, so that the net gain from that source was only about \$200.

It appeared evident that the financial condition of the church called for serious consideration, since its income was still far below its expenses. The trustees, therefore, in January, 1899, at which time he voluntarily and generously offered to accept any reduction of salary which the trustees thought necessary.

The largest item of the church's expenses are: The compensation given to the pastor, the choir and organist, and to the sexton. Economy had already been applied to all the minor expenses. It was decided to make a change in the salary of the organist, as he was then about to be discharged, and to give him service in the church. It was also decided to make no change in the compensation of the sexton. He has faithfully served the church for more than thirty years, and as his compensation is partly based on a percentage of the collections of the church, he has already suffered a serious diminution of income. The pastor and choir salaries would enable him to do so, and that the members of the choir were willing to aid the church in this respect, a reduction of these expenses to the extent of about fifty per cent was effected. The cost of leading the music at prayer meetings was also reduced from \$100 to \$250.

In the month of April a further reduction in the gallery rentals was arranged in the hope of attracting people to the church. It was thought best not to alter the rentals in the body of the church, as there were no non-payers for pew or sitting.

On May 1, 1899, the floating debt had risen to about \$15,000. In view of the fact that many non-payers were complaining about the high rentals charged them, it was considered unwise to attempt to raise the amount of this indebtedness by subscription. Therefore, the sum of \$15,000 was borrowed on the Forty-third street building in addition to the previous mortgage of \$9,000, and a new mortgage for \$45,000 on that property was negotiated at a reduced rate of interest, viz., 4 per cent.

During these events the session had been constituted from time to time, and on Oct. 18, 1899, a joint meeting was held for the purpose of ascertaining if it was necessary to make a change. The only conclusion arrived at was to make a still further reduction in the gallery rentals to see if the number of people could be stimulated by a little more concession.

The gallery news in this church are unusually comfortable and comfortable, and have been many of them have commended as high a rental as the best pews in the city. By this last reduction the rental was reduced to about \$100 per week, and the number of people attending was increased to about \$2,500. Some new rentals had, of course, been effected, but on the other hand, the number of people attending had been given up. The reduction of rentals in the gallery had, previously referred to as applying to that floor, produced no increase of income. On the contrary, it resulted in a loss to the church of about \$275 as compared with the previous year.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the trustees have endeavored to struggle with the problem of how to care for the pastor; how to place the people; how to hold those who came, and how to attract those who did not. Meanwhile the income of the church for the last three years has been steadily declining, and it is to-day less than it was when the pastor began his labors here. Moreover, some pew owners do not now pay their rentals, and have kept up their payments of ground rent. Have notified the trustees that they do not care to continue such payments, and have asked the end of the present fiscal year, the church would have been in a position to pay the ground rent of \$1,000, the trustees felt convinced that some further steps should be taken to reduce the burden on the church, and a joint meeting in the month of November.

At this meeting the condition of the church was fully discussed and it was determined that something should be done. The discussion showed that the church was in a position to pay the ground rent of \$1,000, the trustees felt convinced that some further steps should be taken to reduce the burden on the church, and a joint meeting in the month of November.

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GERRY'S SOCIETY AT WORK.

AGENT COMMANDS AND POLICE AND MAGISTRATE OBEY.

Mother's Protest Against the Institution's Methods Lands Her in a Cell—Has Nine Children, but That Doesn't Matter—Magistrate Summoned to the Telephone.

Agent Fourty of the Gerry Society arrested James O'Brien, six years old, of 409 East Fifty-ninth street, at Third avenue and Fifty-third street on Wednesday afternoon and took him to the society's rooms. The agent said he found the boy begging from passers-by. The boy's mother, hearing that a Gerry agent had taken her child, went down to the rooms of the society with her son Edward, 10 years old, to inquire if her son was there. She found Agent Robert Dimond in charge.

The woman asked if her boy was in the society's care. The agent refused to tell her and ordered her to go to the police for any information she wanted. Apparently she didn't understand what she should do to the police for information about her child in the care of the Gerry Society, and she protested. The agent promptly arrested her and ordered Policeman Busby, who was on post nearby, to lock her up. Then the agent arrested Edward O'Brien for being with his mother and locked him up in the society's rooms. Yesterday morning he arrested the mother and had her two sons in the Yorkville Police Court. The complaint against her was drawn by himself, as he was not satisfied with that drawn by the Court Clerk.

"I arrested this woman for using disrespectful language and making a disturbance in our hall," the agent said to the magistrate. "I was in charge of the office when she came in and asked if we had her son locked up. I told her she could go to court to-day and see if her son was there or she might go and ask the police. I ordered her out of the place and the language she used to me was really shocking."

"May I speak, your Honor?" asked Mrs. O'Brien.

"You may," replied the Magistrate.

"I was excited last night over my boy being lost to me," said the woman, "and it made me lose my temper when the man would not tell me if he had my child. I spoke hard to him. I forgot myself entirely. When I came from Ireland, three years ago, I was told there were no dukes or lords in America, but I'm sorry now I didn't bend the knee to the gentleman and I would have been much better off. The woman was intoxicated," continued the Gerry agent, "told her to get out or I would lock her up. She paid no attention to my warning, but insisted that I must tell her if her boy was there, so I arrested her and handed her over to the police."

"It is not true that I was intoxicated," retorted the woman. "I haven't drunk any liquor for a week. It would make any mother lose her temper and speak strong when people would let her see her child. I spoke hard to the woman said she had nine children, the youngest a baby six months old."

"I believe that she had nine children out to beg," said the Gerry man. The woman declared that she did not.

"I make a charge of intoxication and using vile language against her and ask you to send her to the island," the agent continued.

On the statement you make I will commit her to the Workhouse for one month in default of \$100 bail for her good behavior," announced the Magistrate.

"Oh, Judge, for the love of God don't send me to the workhouse," Mrs. O'Brien cried. "What will my baby do without me, and no one to nurse it."

"Don't bring up an old little woman, Judge," chimed in the woman's husband, who stood on the bridge. "He is to look after the children when their mother is in the workhouse. The Gerry man observed that his society would take them if they were without proper guardianship, and Mrs. O'Brien said she was obliged to execute the law on the complaint of the Gerry man. The woman was then taken down to the prison.

Here's another prisoner, your Honor," spoke up the Gerry agent, as he pushed forward Edward O'Brien.

"What's the charge against him?" asked the Magistrate.

"He has no mother to look after him," the agent answered.

"How can he look after him when you have locked her up?" put in the boy's father.

"The woman said she had nine children," observed the Gerry man in disguised tones.

"I ask you to commit the boy to our society," he said to the Magistrate, "and if he is without proper guardianship, or, in fact, no guardianship at all."

"And here's a brother James, 6 years old, who I arrested for begging," joined in Gerry Agent Fourty. "I want you to commit him to our society."

"I will look into the case of these boys before I commit them to the society," observed the Magistrate. "I will set the examination down for Saturday and I want a full report as to the history of the family. In the meantime I will let the boys in the society's care."

James O'Brien, the woman's husband, said that he supported his wife as a laborer. He declared that his wife was not in the habit of getting drunk and he did not believe that she was a bad mother. He also said that his children did not go out begging on the streets.

Later in the day Mrs. O'Brien was released on \$100 bail for her good behavior. The Gerry man observed that his society would take them if they were without proper guardianship, and Mrs. O'Brien said she was obliged to execute the law on the complaint of the Gerry man. The woman was then taken down to the prison.

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CHEERS FOR CAPT. DODD.

Garden Crowd Approves His Treatment of Curly Horses.

An exciting evening's sport was provided for the patrons of the Military Athletic League tournament at Madison Square Garden last night. The management was at last rewarded for their efforts by a full house, and the proportion of women was far greater than on previous nights. Among the distinguished men present was Capt. R. L. Lee of the Royal Artillery, the British attaché at Washington, who was in Cuba to study American methods in the war with Spain, and was also with Gen. Miles in Porto Rico as the representative of the British Government.

Capt. Lee was a guest of Capt. Horze of the West Point rough riders, and took especial interest in the event of that detachment. In one of the trial heats of the one-mile bicycle championship A. Broxendorn of the Twenty-third Regiment shot too far up the bank at the eastern end of the track. He smashed into the crowd of the Twenty-third Regiment. Both riders were thrown off their wheels, and would have had a serious fall to the floor but for the net stretched to prevent just such accidents.

The first of the track events was the final heat of the two-mile bicycle race, contested on Wednesday night. J. Thompson of the Twelfth Regiment, with ten yards start, was the victor. He gained rapidly on his lead from the crack of the pistol and was in the lead at the distance. He took the line a winner by fifty yards. C. H. Tomlinson of the Twenty-second Regiment was second, and J. J. O'Brien of the Twenty-third Regiment was third. Twenty-second Regiment man, great interest was taken in the 220-yard hurdle handicap, owing to the fact that J. E. O'Brien, the erstwhile champion at the game, made his first appearance over the sticks since his retirement. J. J. O'Brien, the erstwhile champion, was in the lead at the distance. He took the line a winner by fifty yards. C. H. Tomlinson of the Twenty-second Regiment was second, and J. J. O'Brien of the Twenty-third Regiment was third.

A large field took part in the half-mile handicap. Two laps from the finish F. Fuller, 50 yards, who had led all the way, was thrown into the crowd by a horse who was well bunched. Then McLoughlin and McGirr commenced to run in earnest, and when the pistol was fired, McLoughlin was in the lead. He gained rapidly on his lead from the crack of the pistol and was in the lead at the distance. He took the line a winner by fifty yards. C. H. Tomlinson of the Twenty-second Regiment was second, and J. J. O'Brien of the Twenty-third Regiment was third.

The military portion of the show opened with the musical calisthenic drill of the Thirtieth Infantry, then the cavalry entered. They went through a skirmish drill in square and column. The formation of the Thirtieth Infantry was in the lead at the distance. He took the line a winner by fifty yards. C. H. Tomlinson of the Twenty-second Regiment was second, and J. J. O'Brien of the Twenty-third Regiment was third.

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